

370        THE        IMPORTANCE  
OF        [ \_Acx II

*Cecily.* I don't think you should be so proud of that, though

I am sure it must have been very pleasant.

*Algernon.* It is much pleasanter being here with you.

*Cecily.* I can't understand how you are here at all.

Uncle

Jack won't be back until Monday afternoon.

*Algernon.* That is a great disappointment. I am obliged to

go up by the first train on Monday morning.

I have a business appointment that I am anxious . . . to miss?

*Cecily.* Couldn't you miss it anywhere but in London?

*Algernon.* No: the appointment is in London.

*Cecily.* Well, I know of course, how important it is not to keep

a business engagement, if one wants to retain any sense of

the beauty of life, but still I think you had better wait till

Uncle Jack arrives. I know he wants to speak to you about your emigrating,

*Algernon.* About my what?

*Cecily.* Your emigrating. He has gone up to buy your outfit.

*Algernon.* I certainly wouldn't let Jack buy my outfit. He has

no taste in neckties at all.

*Cecily.* I don't think you will require neckties.

Uncle Jack

is sending you to Australia.

*Algernon.* Australia! I'd sooner die.

*Cecily.* Well, he said at dinner on Wednesday night, that you

would have to choose between this world, the next world

and Australia.

*Algernon.* Oh, well! The accounts I have

received of Australia

and the next world are not particularly encouraging. This

world is good enough for me, cousin Cecily.

*Cecily.* Yes, but are you good enough for it?

*Algernon.* I'm afraid I'm not that. That is why I want you

to reform me. You might make that your mission, if you

don't mind, cousin Cecily.

*Cecily.* I'm afraid I've no time, this afternoon.

*Algernon.* Well, would you mind my

reforming myself this

afternoon?

*Cecily.* It is rather Quixotic of you. But I think you should

try.

*Algernon.* I will. I feel better already.

*Cecily.* You are looking a little worse.

*Algernon.* That is because I am hungry.

*Cecily.* How thoughtless of me I I should have remembered

that when one is going to lead an entirely new life, one

requires regular and wholesome meals. Won't you come in?